GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1512
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004
RENEWAL OF MINING LEASE BY COAL COMPANIES
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the nationalised coal companies like Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) are involved in controversy over the mining lease renewal process with the mining department;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to resolve the controversy?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c):Coal mines were acquired under two Nationalisation Acts viz., Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 and Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and were subsequently vested in the coal companies under the provisions of the said Acts. Thus Eastern Coal fields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) became the deemed lessees for the nationalised coal mines for 30 years. The 30 years period has already elapsed in case of BCCL mines. In case of mines with ECL and CCL this period would elapse in 2005. The mining leases are due for renewal.

These coal companies are not in a position to comply fully with the procedural formalities laid down in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 for renewal of mining leases on account of non-availability of relevant documents of lease, surface rights, consent of land owners, lack of updated records on account of reorganization of mines, disputed dues etc. The department of Coal has taken up the matter with the concerned State Governments for early resolution.